PATENT CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for the removal of silver from a cuprous chloride solution in a copper recovery process, ~~characterized in that~~ comprising removing, in at least two stages, silver ~~is removed~~ from a cuprous chloride solution with soluble mercury, using fine-grained copper ~~in at least two stages, whereby~~, the method comprising:

feeding mercury ~~is fed to~~ into the solution at ~~different~~ preselected stages in a ~~certain~~ preselected molar ratio ~~with regard~~ to the silver in the solution[[,]];

precipitating a generated silver amalgam ~~is precipitated on the~~ onto a surface of fine-grained copper[[,]];

removing the silver amalgam ~~is removed~~ from the cuprous chloride solution for the separation of mercury and silver[[,]] ;

recycling ~~after which~~ soluble mercury ~~is recycled~~ back to silver removal; and

treating the precipitated silver compound ~~is treated~~ for the recovery of silver.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the molar ratio of mercury to silver in [[the]] a first amalgam precipitation stage is 0.5– 2.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~claims 1 or 2, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the molar ratio of mercury to silver in [[the]] a second amalgam precipitation stage is at least 2.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 3, wherein the molar ratio of mercury to silver in the second amalgam precipitation stage is between 2 – 10.

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the particle size of the fine-grained copper is less than 200 pm.

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the amount of copper powder feed is in the range of 100 g/L.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, further comprising feeding the copper powder ~~is fed~~ to a mercury removal stage after [[the]] silver removal stages, from which it moves countercurrently in relation to the solution flow.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to a~~ny of the prededing claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, further comprising leaching the precipitated silver amalgam ~~is leached~~ into a dilute chloride solution using an oxidant, whereby the mercury dissolves as mercury chloride and the silver precipitates as silver chloride.

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the oxidant used is sodium hypochlorite.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the oxidant used is hydrogen peroxide.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the oxidant used is oxygen.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising routing the mercury chloride ~~is routed~~ back to silver leaching.

13. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 8, further comprising routing the silver chloride ~~is routed~~ to silver recovery.

14. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 8, wherein an [[the]] alkali chloride content of the concentrated chloride solution is at least 200 g/L.

15. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any of the prededing claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein an [[the]] amount of monovalent copper in the solution to be purified is 30 — 100 g/L.

16. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein silver removal is performed at a pH value of 1 - 5.

17. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, further comprising removing silver from the cuprous chloride solution using fine-grained copper before [[the]] amalgam precipitation [[that]] occurs with mercury~~, the silver is removed from the cuprous chloride solution using fine-grained copper~~.

18. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 17, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a [[the]] particle size of the fine-grained copper ~~powder~~ is less than 200 pm.

19. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 18, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the amount of fine-grained copper ~~powder~~ feed is ~~around~~ about 100 g/L.